



## CFC E-NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009

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### CALIFORNIA FILM & TV TAX CREDIT PROGRAM RECORDS EARLY SUCCESS IN RETAINING JOBS

The California Film Commission which administers the state's landmark incentive program has approved 50 projects to date. Thirty six of those film and television productions are set to shoot during the last quarter of 2009.

Aimed at curbing runaway film and television production, the targeted 5 year \$500 million program is having an immediate impact on increasing California's level of production.

Productions that were slated to film outside the state have shifted gears and are now shooting in California as a direct result of California's film and TV production incentive.

Among the 50 approved projects 50% are independent feature films, 22% are non-independent (studio) features, 8% are direct-to-DVD films, 14% percent are movies of the week and 6% are TV series.



*Priest*—Photo courtesy of Screen Gems

Fourteen projects have already begun filming, and 22 more will begin before the end of the year. The remainder will begin filming in early 2010.

While many of the productions are slated to film in the Los Angeles area, other regions around the state will also benefit from an increase in production activity. Several productions are set to film scenes in Fresno, Kern, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

The program is performing exactly as it was designed to, leveling the playing field and keeping California competitive.

**Funds are still available** and applications continue to be accepted by the CFC. Please visit [www.film.ca.gov/incentives](http://www.film.ca.gov/incentives) for details on application procedures, as well as guidance on qualified expenditures and program requirements.



*Priest*—Photo courtesy of Screen Gems

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## CALIFORNIA ON LOCATION AWARDS – COLA's

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The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual COLA's were held in October at the Marriott in downtown Los Angeles. This invitation-only event is the premiere awards ceremony saluting location professionals, production companies and public employees for professional excellence while working on location in the State of California.

The awards salute Location Professional and Location Team of the Year in a variety of categories, plus City, County, State and Federal Public Employee of the Year for their tireless work assisting California's Entertainment Industry.

This year's state employee of the year award went to Roger San Juan of Caltrans District 7. Location Managers praise Roger's supportive and "no non-sense" attitude and his willingness to find solutions to complex filming requests.

Other state employee nominees were CHP Officer Cheyenne Quesada and Corrections Officers Barry Dowling and Thom Aycock, the Nelles Correctional facility managers.



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## FILMING ON HIGHWAY 2 ANGELES CREST HIGHWAY

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In the aftermath of a runaway commercial truck accident at the junction of Highway 2 and Foothill Blvd. in La Cañada Flintridge, Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol banned all commercial truck traffic, including vehicles for motion pictures from the highway.

This ban impacted filming on productions ranging from commercials to features whose only access to Angeles National Forest and Mt. Wilson is via Highway 2.

In-conjunction with the Motion Picture Association of America, Caltrans, and the CHP, the CFC was successful in incorporating an exemption into new legislation which allows motion picture production vehicles to access Highway 2.

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## SOUTH PASADENA IMPROVED FILMING POLICY

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The City of South Pasadena has removed the requirement for sign-off by the adjacent neighbor (any property immediately bordering the side property lines of, and on the same street as, the film location) for all film shoots in commercial areas (all hours) and for all film shoots in residential areas (for filming taking place between the hours of 7 am-10pm).

For filming taking place after 10pm and before 7:00am in a residential neighborhood, the adjacent neighbor rule is still in place. Please visit <http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us/finance/filmpolicy.html> for more information.

### SAVE THE DATE:

## CALIFORNIA LOCATION RECEPTION

The CFC and the FLICS are hosting the California Location Reception and Trade Show on **February 27, 2010** in Los Angeles. Please mark your calendars for the opportunity to spend time with our FLICS, learn about locations across the state and sample California's award winning wines.

## CFC BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2010

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming CFC board meeting dates listed below:

- Jan. 29 (Los Angeles)
- May 4 (Sacramento)
- July 30 (Los Angeles)
- Nov. 5 (Los Angeles)

### LAX AREA FREEWAYS - HOLIDAY SEASON MORATORIUM

In an effort to continue to provide future filming opportunities on active freeways in Southern California, the California Film Commission in conjunction with Caltrans has started its temporary holiday moratorium on the freeways near LAX.

No permits will be issued for freeway lane and ramp closures and/or rolling breaks on any state roadways within a four mile radius of LAX during the period of **November 24, 2009, through January 4, 2010.**

This annual short term measure, taken after careful review of the traffic counts and the high volume of both cargo and travelers projected during the upcoming holiday season, will ensure that the LAX area will remain viable for more anticipated filming requests after the holiday season has concluded.

### FILMING AT STATE PRISONS

Due to a number of factors, including employee furloughs, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has suspended filming at their facilities. (The Nelles Youth Correctional Facility remains open for filming.)

If you have any questions or would like further information you may phone the State Buildings and Facilities coordinator at 323.860.2960 x 107.

### CITY OF EL SEGUNDO EASES FILMING RESTRICTIONS

The City of El Segundo recently approved changes to their filming ordinance which ease some restrictions. The CFC along with the MPAA and the Teamsters Local 399 successfully provided input into the proposed changes.

Highlights of the new ordinance include:

- Reduce from 300 to 275 feet the radius surrounding a filming site which is presumed to be affected by filming.
- Increase maximum number of filming days allowed from 20 to 25 days for any address within a proximity zone per calendar year. The 25 day maximum may be increased if there are no neighbor protests within the proximity zone.
- Establish maximum number of filming days (80) for locations that are East of Sepulveda Blvd or South of El Segundo Blvd. No impact filming will have unlimited access and production facilities in this area have no limits at their own facility.
- 10:00 p.m. mandatory time out for all filming activities remains in effect. Filming and ancillary activities East of Sepulveda Boulevard or South of El Segundo Boulevard are permitted at all times unless the site is within 275 feet of a commercial lodging facility.

### CALIFORNIA FILM COMMISSION CLOSED THREE FRIDAYS A MONTH

Due to state mandated furloughs, the California Film Commission, along with most state agencies, will be closed on the **1st, 2nd and 3rd Fridays of each month through June 2010.** Please remember to allow 4 days advance notice when applying for filming permits.